### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE NASHVILLE DIVISION

IN RE: REALPAGE, INC., RENTAL SOFTWARE ANTITRUST LITIGATION (NO. II)

Case No. 3:23-MD-3071 MDL No. 3071

This Document Relates to: ALL CASES

Chief Judge Waverly D. Crenshaw, Jr.

# NOTICE OF NUMBER AND NATURE OF DEFENDANTS' ANTICIPATED MOTIONS AND MOTION FOR EXCESS PAGES

Pursuant to the Court's June 1, 2023 Order, the undersigned Defendants notify the Court of the nature and number of anticipated motions they intend to file in response to the Consolidated Amended Complaints (the "CACs"). With respect to two of Defendants' anticipated motions, Defendants hereby move for leave to file consolidated opening and reply briefs in excess of the limits imposed by the Local Rules, as explained in more detail below. Defendants met and conferred with Plaintiffs regarding Defendants' anticipated motions and request for additional pages, and Plaintiffs take no position on Defendants' request for additional pages for the motions addressing issues common to all defendants, provided the Court finds Defendants' justifications sufficient.

Defendants intend to file consolidated motions, where possible, to efficiently address the arguments for the 51 undersigned defendants. Defendants are seeking leave to exceed the page limit set by the Local Rules on only two of those motions, and by only 15 pages for each motion. For the remaining motions, Defendants seek only 12 pages each, and propose reducing the page limits for both sides accordingly.

### 1. **Consolidated Multifamily Complaint**

In lieu of individual motions to dismiss for failure to state a claim, the 51 undersigned Defendants will file a single joint brief to address common issues related to the Multi-Family Housing Consolidated Amended Complaint (the "Multi-Family CAC") (Dkt. 291). In order to accommodate the various arguments sought to be made by scores of Defendants into a single brief, Defendants request leave to file an opening brief of up to 40 pages in support of this motion and a reply brief of up to 20 pages. Defendants believe this modest expansion of the briefing limits in the Local Rules is supported by good cause in light of the number of Defendants that Plaintiffs have named in the Multi-Family CAC, and is necessary to provide space to present the below arguments, among others, in a meaningful way that will be of substantial assistance to the Court:

- Plaintiffs have not alleged that they have Article III or antitrust standing to bring their claims;
- Plaintiffs have not plausibly alleged a horizontal agreement among Defendants to use RealPage software to set prices, as is required for the antitrust claims they seek to advance;
- Even if Plaintiffs had plausibly alleged a horizontal agreement, it would not be subject to the "per se" rule but, instead, would be subject to the "rule of reason";
- For various reasons, Plaintiffs fail to state a claim under the rule of reason. For example, Plaintiffs fail plausibly to allege that Defendants have market power in any plausible relevant market;
- For similar reasons that their federal Sherman Act claim fails, Plaintiffs also fail to state a claim under any of the over 40 state statutes identified in the complaint.

### 2. **Consolidated Student Housing Complaint**

Defendants similarly propose to file a single joint brief to address common issues raised by the Student Housing Consolidated Amended Complaint (the "Student Housing CAC") (Dkt. 290), in lieu of individual motions. For the same reasons as those described with respect to the Multi-Family CAC, Defendants named in the Student Housing CAC request leave to file an opening brief of up to 40 pages in support of this motion and a reply brief of up to 20 pages so that they can accommodate the arguments sought to be made by the various Defendants, many of whom are not named as Defendants in the Multi-Family CAC. Defendants will present similar points as noted above with respect to the Multi-Family CAC, tailored to the allegations in the Student Housing CAC, and will also include arguments for dismissal that are unique to the Student Housing CAC.

Defendants considered filing a single, joint 12(b)(6) motion for both the Multi-Family CAC and Student Housing CAC, but because the student housing Defendants' arguments will necessarily be tailored to the specific allegations of the Student Housing CAC, Defendants believe the briefing will be more efficient and more cogent if Defendants submit separate briefs addressed to the respective complaints. A separate filing is also warranted because the separately filed multifamily and student housing complains would require separate appeals, if an appeal were taken.

#### 3. **Other Motions**

Certain Defendants also intend to file motions on unique issues. Defendants propose that each of these motions be supported by opening briefs of no more than 12 pages and reply briefs of no more than 5 pages.

### LRO Users' Motion to Dismiss

Sixteen Defendants<sup>1</sup> use RealPage revenue management software called Lease Rent Options ("LRO") and intend to file a separate motion to dismiss on the ground that the Multi-Family CAC (Dkt. 291) fails to plead a claim against them as LRO users. Plaintiffs have alleged that RealPage offers its customers revenue management software, including YieldStar and AI Revenue Management ("AIRM"), and alleges that RealPage acquired a legacy product, LRO, in 2017. However, the Multi-Family CAC fails to allege which revenue management software each Defendant uses, and for those Defendants that use LRO, how LRO operates and how it is anticompetitive. Instead, Plaintiffs conflate RealPage's revenue management software offerings for pleading purposes without differentiating their distinguishing features in a classic example of impermissible group pleading. This is a material pleading deficiency, which is especially egregious as to the Defendants who use LRO, because in previous complaints—including several filed by named Plaintiffs (and putative class representatives) Jefferey Weaver, Kate Kramer, Patrick Parker, Pricilla Parker, Barry Amar-Hoover, Billie Jo White and Brandon Watters, and nine complaints filed by Plaintiffs' Interim Co-Lead Counsel Scott + Scott and Robins Kaplan— Plaintiffs alleged that LRO revenue management software was designed to avoid antitrust concerns because its algorithm does not rely on non-public data from competitors. Plaintiffs alleged in those complaints that LRO uses only public market data as an input. The CAC likewise does not allege

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> AvalonBay Communities, Inc.; Bell Partners, Inc.; Brookfield Properties Multifamily LLC; CONAM Management Corporation; Equity Residential; Independence Realty Trust, Inc.; Mid-America Apartment Communities, Inc.; Morgan Properties Management Company, LLC; The Related Companies, L.P.; Related Management Company, L.P.; Security Properties Inc.; Simpson Property Group, LLC (incorrectly named as Simpson property Group, LLP); Thrive Communities Management, LLC; Windsor Property Management Company; WinnCompanies LLC; and WinnResidential Manager Corp.

that the LRO algorithm uses non-public data and does not plausibly plead that the Defendants who use LRO participated in any purported conspiracy.

### Agency Liability Motion to Dismiss

Certain Defendants, including Avenue 5 Residential, LLC, FPI Management, Inc., Pinnacle Property Management Services, LLC, and ZRS Management, LLC, plan to file a motion based on Plaintiffs' failure to state a claim against them. Plaintiffs have engaged in impermissible group pleading by combining property owners and property managers under the single term "Lessor Defendants." Property managers like the three movants are not lessors and do not receive rents. Instead, they are agents that manage properties on behalf of owners and that receive a management fee for providing those services. As a general legal matter, agents are not liable for the actions of their principals, absent further specific allegations about the agent's responsibility for the conduct, which plaintiffs have not come close to alleging. Other similarly-situated Defendants are considering joining this motion, and in no way waive their ability to raise these issues at a later time.

### Thoma Bravo L.P. Motion to Dismiss

Thoma Bravo L.P. intends to file a motion to dismiss because it is not the owner of RealPage, Inc. and it is not plausible that it participated in the alleged conspiracy based on the allegations in the CAC.

### Motion to Strike

Defendants intend to move to strike certain of Plaintiffs' class allegations or dismiss certain class claims pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1), 12(b)(6), 12(f), and 23(d)(1)(D). It is clear from the face of the CACs that Plaintiffs' allegations cannot sustain a nationwide class, and that any class must necessarily be local or regional, not national.

Furthermore, the allegations related to the geographic markets in which no named Plaintiff claims to have been injured must be stricken.

### Personal Jurisdiction and Venue Motions

Certain Defendants intend to file motions to dismiss based on lack of personal jurisdiction, lack of subject matter jurisdiction, or lack of venue in the transferor courts and/or in this Court.

This Court may exercise personal jurisdiction over Defendants named in the transferred actions only to the extent the transferor courts could do so, and Plaintiffs impermissibly asserted claims against such Defendants in courts that do not have personal jurisdiction over them. For example, Defendant BH Management Services, LLC ("BH") intends to file a motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction under Rule 12(b)(2) as to the actions that were filed in the Western District of Washington (Nos. 3:23-ev-00329, 3:23-ev-00330, 3:23-ev-00333, 3:23-ev-00337, 3:23-cv-00339, 3:23-cv-00387, 3:23-cv-00389, 3:23-cv-00414).<sup>2</sup> BH is not subject to personal jurisdiction in the Western District of Washington. Similarly, Defendant Rose Associates Inc. ("Rose") intends to move to dismiss for improper venue as to the action filed against it in the Western District of Washington (No. 3:23-cv-00335). Rose cannot be found in Washington, has no agents there, has no properties there, and does not transact business there. And Defendant D.P. Preiss Company, Inc. ("Preiss") intends to move to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction under Rule 12(b)(2) as to the action filed against it in the Western District of Washington (No. 3:23-cv-00329). Moreover, former Plaintiffs Silverman and Kimbrough, the plaintiffs in the Western

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> In the Student Housing CAC, Plaintiffs newly name BH's affiliate B.HOM Student Living ("B.HOM") and partner Timberline Real Estate Ventures LLC ("TREV") as Defendants. Dkt. 292, ¶¶ 28-29. B.HOM and TREV are in the process of retaining counsel. B.HOM and TREV may join BH's personal jurisdiction motion or file separate motions on similar grounds.

District of Washington case naming Rose (No. 3:23-cv-00335), do not claim to be residents of Washington. Venue is therefore improper.

In addition, other Defendants intend to move to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction of the transferee court. For example, the named plaintiffs in the CAC did not previously bring any claims against B/T Washington, LLC d/b/a Blanton Turner ("BT Washington"), and B/T Washington is not subject to personal jurisdiction in the Middle District of Tennessee.

Defendants are willing to discuss with Plaintiffs options for narrowing potential jurisdictional disputes.

### Motion to Enforce Class Action Waiver

Defendant Lincoln Property Company intends to file a Motion to Strike the Class Allegations as to named Plaintiff Brandon Watters. Plaintiff Watters leased at 2010 West End Avenue in Nashville, Tennessee, a property managed during the relevant time period, in part, by Lincoln Property Company. See Consolidated Amended Complaint ¶ 38. As noted in ECF 261, Mr. Watters' lease contained a class action waiver. See Defendants' Notice (Dkt. 261). Defendant Lincoln intends to move to strike Plaintiff Watters' class action allegations and enforce the lease's class action waiver.

Further, and as noted in ECF 261, many Defendants also have agreements with putative class members that contain arbitration agreements, class action waivers, and jury trial waivers. Defendants are continuing their efforts to identify relevant leases and related documents for the named plaintiffs where properties were not identified in the CACs. Defendants in no way waive their ability to enforce these provisions, and hereby provide notice that they intend to assert defenses based on arbitration agreements, class action waivers, and jury trial waivers as to putative

class members at the appropriate time. Defendants seek guidance from the Court on when such

motions should be brought.

Motion to Stay Discovery Pending Decision on Motions to Dismiss

Finally, Defendants also intend to file a motion to stay discovery while their motions to

dismiss are pending. See Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 546, 559 (2007)

(recognizing the "unusually high cost of discovery in antitrust cases" should be avoided where

there is "no reasonably founded hope that the discovery process will reveal relevant evidence to

support a § 1 claim"); In re Travel Agent Commission Antitrust Litig., 583 F.3d 896, 908-09 (6th

Cir. 2009) ("Pursuant to Twombly, district courts must assess the plausibility of an alleged

agreement before parties are forced to engaged in protracted litigation and bear excessive

discovery costs." (emphasis in original)).

While this notice reflects Defendants' best summary of their anticipated motions and

arguments therein at this time, Defendants continue to evaluate the allegations in both CACs and

reserve the right to present other arguments in their motions.

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Respectfully submitted,

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on June 21, 2023, I electronically filed the foregoing document with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to all attorneys of record registered on the CM/ECF system.

DATED this 21st day of June, 2023.

| /s/ Jay Srinivasan |
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